

Sourcing

Before reading the document, ask yourself:

- Who wrote this?
- What is the author's point of view?
- Why was it written?
- When was it written? (A long time or a short time after the event?)
- Is this source believable? Why or why not?

Contextualizing

- What else was going on at the time this was written?
- What was it like to be alive at this time?
- What things were different back then? What things were the same?
- What would it be like to see this even through the eyes of someone who lived back then?

Cross-Checking (Corroboration)

- What do other pieces of evidence say?
- Am I finding the same information everywhere?
- Am I finding different versions of the story? (If yes, why might that be?)
- Where else could I look to find out more about this?
- What pieces of evidence are most believable?

Close Reading

- What claims does the author make?
- What evidence does the author use to support those claims?
- How is this document supposed to make me feel?
- What words does the author use to convince me that he/she are right?
- What information does the author leave out?

